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Amendments to Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-5, 20, 21, 24, 26, 37 and 38 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new Claims 45-54 as set forth below.

- 1-5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) A method of preparing a powdered form of a protein, which comprises:
 - (a) mixing a solution of the protein with inulin, and
 - (b) drying the mixture.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the inulin is derived from Chicory Root.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, which further comprises mixing a solution of the protein with inulin and with a reducing sugar, and then drying the mixture.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the reducing sugar is glucose.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the reducing sugar is tagatose.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the drying step comprises lyophilization.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the drying step comprises air drying.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the mixture is cooled as it is being air dried.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the protein is hemoglobin.

15-44. (Canceled)

45. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the hemoglobin is pegylated.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the pegylated hemoglobin comprises one or more polyethylene glycol (PEG) molecules with a molecular weight of 200-40,000 daltons.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the PEGs comprise a PEG with a molecular weight of 5,000 daltons.

48. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the hemoglobin is pegylated with 2-8 PEGs.

49. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the hemoglobin is pegylated with 2-4 PEGs.

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- 50. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the hemoglobin is oxygenated.
- 51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the hemoglobin is resistant to oxidation.
- 52. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the hemoglobin is stable at room temperature.
- 53. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the powdered hemoglobin contains no more than 20% of the met form of hemoglobin.
- 54. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the powdered hemoglobin contains no more than 10% of the met form of hemoglobin.